

REMARKS

Claims 1-5, 7-15, and 17-22 are pending in the present application. Claims 6 and 16 have been canceled. Claims 1, 8, and 11 are independent.

Summary of the Invention

An object of the Applicants' claimed invention is to address the inconvenience associated with monitoring and configuring alarm conditions and network profile characteristics in telecommunication systems. Many telecommunication systems have default settings of alarm conditions for the various types of network faults that might occur. These default settings are usually specified by the vendor or system integrator, and generally do not allow the user to provision an alarm differently than the default setting. This is disadvantageous in that it effectively limits the alarm monitoring function to parameters specified by the vendor and does not allow flexible alarm definitions by the user.

Because alarms of the present systems are not always user provisionable, a user cannot conveniently change the provisioning of alarms. The inconvenience is even greater in a case in which certain alarm conditions need to be turned off and back on, or otherwise modified frequently such as during equipment installation and upgrades.

The Applicants' claimed invention therefore provides a system to conveniently change the provisioning of alarms, and to conveniently define and monitor certain measurable network characteristics, such as performance metrics and user profiles.

This convenience is provided in part by defining profiles for each characteristic, the profile for each characteristic being reduced to a simple value. Such a value may be assigned to more than one characteristic. For example, a 1 representing a profile specifying that a card failure condition is not reported may be assigned for a card failure, and/or a 0 representing a profile specifying that each type of failure is critical may be assigned to a card failure. A number of different profiles can be created for each entity, and an operator can modify or add alarm profiles as required. Any number of profiles is possible (the number of profiles defined is practically limited by the amount of available memory). In an example case, a profile assigns a numeric value (0, 1, etc.). However, it is conceivable that any value representation (for example, 23, 150, 323a) can provide the convenience needed to assign such a great number of profiles to characteristics.

35 U.S.C. § 102(b) Palmer Rejection

Claims 1-22 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Palmer (USP 5,295,139). This rejection, insofar as it pertains to the presently pending claims, is respectfully traversed.

Palmer is directed to a management system for partitioned multi-bandwidth communications network. To manage the network, Palmer utilizes logical objects. Such logical objects are used to represent physical objects. Palmer refers to this as mapping a logical to a physical object in column 6, lines 15-28. Most of the physical entities in the network are represented by corresponding or mapped logical objects. The bridge object is extensively

utilized in the Office Action to reject the claims. Although the bridge object does include attributes such as bridge type, bridge ID, service state, and alarm state, such attributes and Palmer's utilization of logical objects to represent physical entities in the network does not disclose or suggest the invention as now recited in the amended independent claims.

Specifically, Palmer does not define a plurality of profiles for a logical entity representing a network element features wherein each profile assigns a corresponding specific value to each characteristic of the logical entity. It appears that Palmer's logical objects have a one-to-one correspondence with the physical objects in that there is no definition of a plurality of profiles for a logical entity representing the network. Indeed, the purposes and applications and even advantages of the invention are not taught or suggested by Palmer.

The plurality of profiles are not merely abstract concepts that may be rejected by any supposed similarity in language utilized by Palmer. As recited in amended independent claims 1 and 11, each of the profiles has one or more characteristics that are assigned and which comprise failure conditions associated with the network elements. The claimed profiles define corresponding alarm severity levels to be generated for each corresponding failure condition. Although Palmer mentions an alarm state as part of the bridge object, such alarm state cannot teach or suggest the plurality of profiles, each one of which defines corresponding alarm severity levels to be generated for a corresponding failure condition.

At best, the "alarm state" in Palmer appears to teach merely the status of an alarm, which falls far short of and fails to disclose or suggest a plurality of profiles that define corresponding alarm severity levels to be generated for each corresponding failure condition. As noted above in

the invention summary section, such profiles permit a changeable and more manageable provisioning of alarms and which alarms and alarm severity levels are raised with respect to various failure conditions.

For example, and as shown in Figure 3, different failure conditions, such as card failure, card missing, and card mismatch, can be assigned various different alarm profiles such that different sets of alarm severity levels (e.g., critical (CR), not reported (NR), minor alarm (MN), and major alarm (MJ)) may be generated for a corresponding failure condition. By merely changing the alarm profile, the entire system will react differently and raise different alarm severity levels in response to the same corresponding failure condition. Nothing even remotely like this is disclosed or suggested by Palmer. The mere mention of an “alarm state” completely fails to disclose or suggest such specific claim features as not recited in amended independent claims 1 and 11.

Claim 8 is directed to a different application of profiles, but the fact remains that Palmer fails to disclose or suggest anything like amended independent claim 8. Specifically, the characteristics recited in claim 8 comprise performance characteristics associated with the network elements. As further recited therein, the profiles define corresponding alert levels to be generated for each corresponding performance characteristic. The Office Action refers to Palmer’s “service state” as allegedly teaching such features, but such “service state” is merely a data point that indicates the service state of the corresponding physical network element. Such a service state simply fails to disclose or suggest a plurality of profiles, each one of which defines corresponding alert levels to be generated for each corresponding performance characteristic.

Again, by changing the profile, one can direct the network to respond in an entirely different manner. In other words, given the same performance characteristics, the profiles can be changed to define different corresponding alert levels that are generated in response to the corresponding performance characteristic. No such concept is included within Palmer's patent disclosure.

For all of the above reasons, taken alone or in combination, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the § 102(b) Palmer rejection.

Conclusion

In view of the above amendment, Applicants believe the pending application is in condition for allowance.

Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned, at the telephone number below, to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

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Respectfully submitted,

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